

Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, EEWT, BEXP, UR

SUBJECT: GREATER EMPHASIS ON COAL SPARKS CONCERN AMONG SOVIET
ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS

1. AT SPASO RECEPTION DECEMBER 11 FOR U.S. EPA DELEGATION, HYDROMET OFFICIAL YU.YE. KAZAKOV CONFIRMED DURING DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS THAT SOVIETS INTEND PLACE CONSIDERABLY GREATER EMPHASIS ON COAL DURING 1976-80 PERIOD. AS CONSEQUENCE OF THIS SHIFT, KAZAKOV SAID, EFFORT WILL BE MADE SHARPLY TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AT OLD COAL MINING REGION SOUTH OF MOSCOW IN TULA AREA. UNFORTUNATELY, HE ADDED, COAL FROM TULA AREA IS VERY HIGH IN SULFUR, AND ITS USE WILL POSE SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS UNLESS TECHNOLOGY FOR DESUPPHUZATION IS EMPLOYED. KAZAKOV SUGGESTED THAT PROPOSED TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON POLLUTION CONTROL SCHEDULED FOR US COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN FEBRUARY 1975 INCLUDE PRESENTATION ON DESULPHURIZATION OF COAL.

2. COMMENT: IN VIEW FACT THAT FEBRUARY 1975 SEMINAR WILL FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON WATER POLLUTION, IT WOULD NOT APPEAR POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE PRESENTATION ON DESULPHURIZATION OF COAL. CONSEQUENTLY, COMMERCIAL OFFICE SUGGESTS THAT WE TREAT KAZAKOV'S COMMENTS AS INDICATION OF COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY WHICH SHOULD BE PUBLICIZED TO APPROPRIATE U.S. COMPANIES.

3. WHILE KAZAKOV'S REMARKS PROVIDED USEFUL CONFIRMATION OF
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EMBASSY'S PREVIOUS REPORTS OF SOVIET SHIFT TOWARD GREATER

EMPHASIS ON COAL IN OVERALL ENERGY BALANCE, IT IS SURPRISING
THAT AS PART OF THIS POLICY SOVIETS APPARENTLY PLAN ATTEMPT
TO REVITALIZE COAL INDUSTRY IN TULA BASIN. IT HAS BEEN
EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT NOT ONLY WAS COAL FROM THIS AREA
HIGH IN SULPHUR AND LOW IN HEATING VALUE, COST OF PRODUCTION
WAS EXTREMELY HIGH DUE TO FACT THAT SEAMS WERE THIN AND DEEP.
IF SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO PUT SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS INTO
REDEVELOPMENT OF TULA COAL MINING REGION, REVERSING A PREVIOUS
POLICY OF ALLOWING COAL MINING IN THAT AREA TO WIND DOWN,
THIS WOULD BE GRAPHIC INDICATION OF EXTENT TO WHICH COAL
BEING REEMPHASIZED IN ENERGY BALANCE.
STOESSEL

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